tapol
The Indonesia Human Rights Campaign
111 Northwood Road. Thornton Heath. Surrey CR7 8HW, UK. Tel: 01 771 2904 Fax 01 653 0322
Fax: 01-653 0322

TL1416
CDPM
DOCUMENTAÇÃO
3/90

Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: GIF/Jose G. / CDPM/Luisa T.P.

From: Liem Soei Liong

Date/Time: 22/03/90 11.15 Fax no.: 010-3511-804043

Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 1 (one)

If you do not receive all the pages, or they are not fully legible, please call us as soon as possible on 01-771 2904

Comments/Message:

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1990

THE JAKARTA POST

Church to fully assist ABRI in developing E. Timor, says Belo

JAKARTA (JP): East Timor Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo says that his church will fully assist the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) members assigned in the province since they are there to help increase the living standards of the East Timorese.

"If ABRI members don't use guns and violence against the East Timorese and take a friendly attitude toward them, then the local people will weep when they leave," Belo was quoted by *Suara Pembaruan* daily as telling about 1,350 soldiers from the West Kalimantan and North Sulawesi infantry battalions in Dili last week.

The soldiers are assigned in East Timor to help implement development efforts conducted by the local people. Before they were sent to various villages in the nation's youngest province, the soldiers were given directives by local authorities, including the Dili dioces.

Belo said that at present there was no great danger to security in East Timor. The East Timorese, he said were now actively working with the local government to develop their area.

He admitted that although East Timor was integrated into Indonesia in 1976, there were still a lot of East Timorese living in backwardness, particularly in terms of education, as a result of the colonialism of the Portuguese.

Belo explained that backwardness in East Timor occured mainly due to the fact that there were still many people working traditionally in agriculture. "They still firmly hold their old traditions which in fact have made it difficult for them to move forward," he said.

The bishop said the success of ABRI's mission in East Timor would be determined by good cooperation with the local people. He therefore called on the soldiers to adjust themselves to the local people's ways and respect the existing religions and traditions.